

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-08

PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 DODE-00 /101 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2523

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02881

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, LE, XF, NO

SUBJECT: NDRE PROPOSAL FOR SITE TESTS OF SENSOR

EQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 176633

1. MISOFF DISCUSSED POSSIBLE VISIT OF US/NORWEGIAN TEAM TO SOUTH LEBANON WITH GEORGE LANSKY UN SECRETARIAT ON JULY 13 AS REQUESTED REFTEL. LANSKY INFORMED US THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAS SENT A LETTER ON JULY 12 TO THE NORWEGIAN UN MISSION GIVING UN PERMISSION FOR THE VISIT.

2. AS REGARDS QUESTION OF FINANCING, LANSKY STATED THAT THE NORWEGIANS HAD WRITTEN THE SECRETARIAT THE THE IMPRES- SION OF THE NORWEGIAN TEAM WHICH HAD VISITED WASHINGTON WAS THAT THE US WAS PREPARED TO PAY THE COSTS OF ITS PARTICIPATION. THE NORWEGIANS ALSO HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD PAY THEIR SHARE. THE UN'S JULY 12 LETTER ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF THESE UNDERSTANDINGS.

3. IN REPLY TO OUR QUERY AS TO WHETHER THE UN WOULD FINANCE THE COST OF A US VISIT UNDER UN ASSIST LETTER
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REQUESTING US SERVICES ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS, LANSKY SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT ALTHOUGH NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT HE FIRST WOULD WANT TO RECEIVE REPLY FROM NORWEGIANS AS PER PARA 1. ON SIMILAR BASIS, LANSKY ALSO DECLINED TO ASK NORWEGIANS TO COVER COST OF US PARTICI- PATION.

4. LANSKY FURTHER RAISED A NUMBER OF CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE USE OF SENSOR EQUIPMENT IN SOUTH LEBANON WHICH HE ASKED TO BE PASSED ON TO DEPARTMENT:

A) THE UN HAS LIMITED FUNDS.

B) IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO AVOID LENGTHY DELAYS IN DELIVERY DATES OF EQUIPMENT FROM VARIOUS CORPORATIONS.

C) INSTEAD OF IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHING A PERMANENT PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RUN PROGRAM ON TRIAL BASIS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TO DETERMINE WHETHER PARTICULAR KINDS OF SENSOR EQUIPMENT IS REALLY USABLE IN THE FIELD.

D) EQUIPMENT HAS TO BE SIMPLE ENOUGH TO OPERATE THAT IT COULD BE HANDLED BY PERSONNEL WITH VERY LITTLE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY. MOREOVER, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT UNIFIL FORCES ARE ON ROTATING BASIS, IT WOULD NOT BE WORTHWHILE TO RUN TRAINING PROGRAMS OF SEVERAL WEEKS DURATION FOR MEN WHO WOULD ONLY BE STAYING SEVERAL MONTHS.

E) THERE IS ONLY LIMITED CAPABILITY TO REPAIR TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IN SOUTH LEBANON. FRENCH ENGINEERS WERE PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND, IF THEY COULD NOT REPAIR EQUIPMENT ON THE SPOT, THIS MEANS IT WOULD BE INOPERABLE FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME.

4. MISOFF SAID HE WOULD REPORT THESE VIEWS TO WASHINGTON AND SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE. LEONARD
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